



Policy Research and Analysis

During Fiscal Year 1998, the Chairman reorganized the Office of Policy, Research & Technology (OPRT) and renamed it the Office of Policy Research & Analysis (OPRA). The reorganization reflects the Chairman's emphasis on how research and analysis affect the Endowment and the arts community in the policy and planning process. In keeping with this emphasis, throughout 1998 OPRA continued to analyze the agency's application and grantmaking patterns, both in the aggregate and for new initiatives such as ArtsREACH. These analyses assist the Chairman and the National Council on the Arts in making the policy or procedural changes necessary to ensure an equitable and diverse pool of grantees.



Open Studio home page on the World Wide Web. Photo copyright 1999 Benton Foundation.

As part of its policy portfolio, OPRA oversees the agency's Civil Rights Office, which reflects the Chairman's commitment to equity within the Endowment, with its grantees, and with the cultural community in general. Working with OPRA, the Civil Rights Office monitors and influences policy and practices agency-wide. Another policy priority for the Endowment is technology, and in Fiscal Year 1998 OPRA continued to manage **Open Studio: The Arts Online**, the agency's collaborative project with the Benton Foundation intended to expand cultural content on the Internet by training artists and arts organizations in Web design.

OPRA's Research Division conducts research and develops and disseminates information on issues affecting the various arts fields and individual artists. The Research Division has reported national statistics on arts audiences and arts participation; financial and other information about arts organizations; and artist employment and earnings data. In 1998, the Research Division:

- published *Research Report #39, 1997 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts: Summary Report*, which describes the results of the agency's latest national survey of arts participation. The report examines trends in arts participation, including geographic and demographic comparisons.
- produced a series of *Research Division Notes* (#62 through #68) that analyze statistics on arts organizations derived from the Census Bureau's quinquennial *Census of Service Industries*.



- convened a symposium with arts service organization and foundation representatives as well as researchers to examine the results of a study assessing the state of data collection on arts organizations. Based on symposium recommendations, a project was launched to create a national data base of arts organizations.

These and related studies will continue in Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000, giving the Endowment a history of comparative data on the arts in America that encompasses nearly two decades.

Also in 1998, the Endowment's library, administered by the Research Division, continued to collect and disseminate information from various sources and make it available to the arts community and the public.



Researchers, artists and members of the public have access (by appointment) to online research, journals, and other reference materials in the NEA library. Photos by Thomas Bickley.

